

respect to dates that are predominantly dark amber in color, there may be not more than 5 percent by count of dates that are light amber in color.

(b) *(B) classification.* If the whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing possess a reasonably good color, a score of 16 or 17 points may be given. Dates that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B or U.S. Choice or U.S. Grade B (Dry) or U.S. Choice (Dry), whichever is applicable, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). “Reasonably good color” means that the color of the whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing is reasonably uniform for the type; and, with respect to dates that are predominantly light amber in color, there may be not more than 10 percent by count of dates that are dark amber in color; and, with respect to dates that are predominantly dark amber in color, there may be not more than 10 percent by count of dates that are light amber in color.

(c) *(C) classification.* If the whole or pitted dates, whole dry dates for processing, date pieces, or macerated dates possess a fairly good color, a score of 14 or 15 points may be given. Dates that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard or U.S. Grade C (Dry) or U.S. Standard (Dry), whichever is applicable, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). “Fairly good color” has the following meanings with respect to the following styles:

(1) *Whole; pitted.* The color of the whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing is fairly uniform for the type; and, with respect to dates that are predominantly light amber in color, there may be not more than 20 percent by count of dates that are dark amber in color; and, with respect to dates that are predominantly dark amber in color, there may be not more than 20 percent by count of dates that are light amber in color.

(2) *Pieces; macerated.* The color may be variable throughout the units or mass, may be slightly dull but not off-color, and is typical of properly prepared dates of these styles.

(d) *(SStd) classification.* Dates that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section may be given a score of 0 to 13 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§ 52.1007 Uniformity of size.

(a) *General.* The factor of uniformity of size applies only to whole and pitted styles. The factor of uniformity of size in the styles of date pieces and macerated dates is not based on any detailed requirements and is not scored; the other three factors (color, absence of defects, and character is applicable) are scored and the total is multiplied by 100 and divided by 90, dropping any fractions to determine the total score.

(b) *(A) classification.* Whole or pitted dates that are practically uniform in size may be given a score of 9 or 10 points. “Practically uniform in size” means that not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the whole or pitted dates may be conspicuously larger or smaller than the approximate average size of the dates in the container.

(c) *(B) classification.* If the whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing are reasonably uniform in size, a score of 8 points may be given. Dates that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B or U.S. Choice or U.S. Grade B (Dry) or U.S. Choice (Dry), whichever is applicable, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). “Reasonably uniform in size” means that not more than a total of 15 percent, by weight, of the whole or pitted dates may be conspicuously larger or smaller than the approximate average size of the dates in the container.

(d) *(C) classification.* If the whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing are fairly uniform in size, a score of 7 points may be given. Dates that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard or U.S. Grade C (Dry) or U.S. Standard (Dry), whichever is applicable, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). “Fairly uniform in size” means that not more than a total of 20 percent, by weight, of the whole or pitted dates may be conspicuously larger or smaller

than the approximate average size of the dates in the container.

(e) (*SStd*) *classification*. Whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section may be given a score of 0 to 6 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§ 52.1008 Absence of defects.

(a) *Definitions of defects*. Unless otherwise stated specifically, the following definitions of defects or defective units apply only to whole or pitted dates or whole dry dates for processing, as applicable for the type:

(1) *Damaged by discoloration* is the presence of a dark area in the flesh of the date, which dark area is visible through the skin and is more than one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch in width and extends more than the equivalent of half the length of the date, such darkening being of natural origin and not caused by mold or other organism.

(2) *Damaged by broken skin* is any rupture of the skin in a manner to expose the flesh of the date, the shortest dimension of such exposed area being not less than three-sixteenths ($\frac{3}{16}$) inch.

(3) *Damaged by checking* is the presence of fine lines, resulting from water injury, affecting the surface of the skin over an area not less than one-fourth of the total surface of the date.

(4) *Seriously damaged by checking* is the presence of heavy lines, resulting from water injury, seriously affecting the surface of the skin over an area not less than one-fourth of the total surface of the date.

(5) *Damaged by deformity* is any abnormal shape sufficient to produce an appearance discernibly at variance with the normal shape that is typical of the variety.

(6) *Damaged by puffiness* is the condition of a date of which the skin is soft and pliable and from which the skin is separated from the flesh in a balloon-like fashion, over an area not less than one-half of the total surface of the date. Soft skins which have returned and adhere to the flesh of the date are not considered "damaged by puffiness."

(7) *Seriously damaged by puffiness* is the condition of a date of which the

skin is dry, hard, and brittle and from which the skin is separated from the flesh over an area not less than one-half of the total surface of the date.

(8) *Damaged by scars* are any blemishes that affect the exterior of the date and which are not less than three-sixteenths ($\frac{3}{16}$) inch in the shortest dimension.

(9) *Damaged by sunburn* is an area, usually light in color, scarred by the heat of the sun, such area being not less than three-sixteenths ($\frac{3}{16}$) inch in the shortest dimension.

(10) *Damaged by insect injury* is any blemish, resulting from the activity of insects or mites, distributed over an area of not less than one-fourth of the total surface of the date or any similar blemish that materially affects the appearance or edibility of the unit, regardless of the area affected.

(11) *Damaged by improper hydrating* means that the date has been injured by excessive heat or that the hydrating process is incomplete.

(12) *Damaged by mashing* means any physical injury to the flesh and skin of the date leaving the date partially mangled but otherwise whole.

(13) *Damaged by mechanical injury* means excessive trimming or similar injury that damages the appearance or that damages or affects the eating quality of the whole date.

(14) *Damaged by lack of pollination* means, with respect to whole dates, that pollination of the date was not accomplished, such condition being manifested by the absence of a pit in the whole dates or by thin, immature appearance of the date.

(15) *Damaged by blacknose* is severe checking in which the flesh becomes dark, crusty, and dry and which severe checking affects an area greater than one-eighth of the total surface of the date.

(16) *Damaged by side spot* means a very dark area, which generally is circular in appearance, extending into the flesh of the date, and, when decayed tissue or mold is not present, affecting in the aggregate an area not less than the area of a circle three-sixteenths ($\frac{3}{16}$) inch in diameter.

(17) *Damaged by black scald* means the collapse, death, and blackening of the flesh along the side of the date, usually